

# AgeNews

## East Asia/Pacific

Sharing information  
to strengthen  
HelpAge Network

Issue 15  
May 2015



### Inside:

- HelpAge team at UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- When older people lead disaster risk reduction, it is inclusive
- Interview with Quyen Tran, HelpAge Regional Programme Manager
- Stories from the field
- Buddy HomeCare – social enterprise for older people
- Myanmar's journey to broader social protection

HelpAge  
International

global network

## Editorial



Hannah was born eight months ago and is frequently “visiting” the EAPRO office, where she delights us with her smiles and gestures.

Apple, her mother, works in this office. It is most likely that Hannah will live into the 22<sup>nd</sup> century and we cannot help to ask ourselves “What kind of old age will she have?”

“How will the children being born today fare in their later lives?” We don’t really know. There are those who speak of a coming intergenerational conflict with few people in working age and a burden of older people needing their support. Others, however, see potential for redesigned societies, where old and young, men and women, will be able to contribute to their economies and societies to the best of their abilities. In these reimagined societies the spirit of reciprocity and well-being of all ages could be achieved, harmony could prevail, and poverty could be eradicated. All of this is not simply wishful thinking, but a clear possibility if societies embrace change early on. A key step in this direction is to change the perception of older people as a burden on society into a view of older people as a resource to that society.

This issue of AgeNews highlights the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) held in Sendai, Japan last March. The Sendai Framework recognised older people as “invaluable assets to reduce disaster risk” and called for them to be “included in the design of policies, plans and mechanisms.” People in later life can play an active role in disaster preparedness, not only learning from experience, but also preparing for the sometimes uncertain future.

One can only hope that Hannah will be able to approach her distant old age confidently, knowing that the society she lives in has been redesigned to be a society for all ages.

**Eduardo Klien**  
Regional Director, East Asia/Pacific  
HelpAge International

## Regional workshop on community-based social care



Wajee Ruangphornwisut/HelpAge International

### ► Regional

HelpAge East Asia/Pacific Regional Office, in partnership with the Department of Health, Thailand, organised the regional workshop “Community-based social care: What is the role of the State?” on 27-28 January 2015. It brought together more than 60 representatives from governments, international organisations, academic institutions and civil society organisations. In total 43 organisations from 12 countries attended.

Presenters were drawn from Age UK, World Bank, International Labour Organization (ILO), Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI), National University of Singapore, Incheon National University of Republic of Korea, HelpAge network organisations and government ministries.

The workshop highlighted the need to integrate social care into existing programmes and systems, and featured thematic presentations on health, social protection, social interaction and services for people with dementia. China, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Thailand shared their country experiences of social care.

Workshop participants reviewed the provision of social care in their countries and considered what stakeholders, and especially governments, should do to promote community-based social care and its sustainability.

**All presentations, brief summary points and tentative conclusions are available on [AgeingAsia.org](http://AgeingAsia.org)**

## ILO-HelpAge executive course on social pensions

### ► Regional

The International Labour Organization (ILO), the ILO’s International Training Centre in Turin and HelpAge East Asia/Pacific held an executive course on designing and extending universal pension systems in Asia and the Pacific on 9-13 February in Bangkok, Thailand.

Twenty-nine participants from governments and other bodies from 10 countries in Asia and the Pacific were trained on designing, implementing, financing, managing and reforming pension systems, with emphasis on non-contributory social pensions.

ILO and HelpAge believe that social insurance such as pensions can guarantee the minimum protection in terms of income security in old age. The sharing of knowledge and experiences from different countries during the workshop should help experts in considering and implementing effective pension systems.

# HelpAge team at UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

## ► Global

A HelpAge delegation joined the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015. We capitalised on the opportunity to advocate for an age-inclusive post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

HelpAge and older people from Japan and the Philippines joined the World Bank session about the Ibasho Café – a social enterprise run and managed by older people who survived the 2011 Tsunami in Ofunato, Japan. In addition, we participated in the working session on ‘Communities Addressing Local Risk’ and promoted our work at the exhibition.

We officially launched the first Disaster Risk and Age Index, which ranks 190 countries across the world on the disaster risk faced by older people, at the Ignite stage on 17 March. The index has been jointly developed with the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). Hundreds of copies of the Index were distributed along with Charter 14, a guide for governments on how to include older people in their disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programmes.

The HelpAge team was successful in getting Charter 14 signed by five countries at the conference. A further 20 countries have been given the charter and will consider signing it after consulting with their respective governments.

We are pleased to report that the newly adopted framework for DRR explicitly presents the engagement of older people in disaster management as resourceful contributors.

A summary of the key points of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 can be found on the next page.

For more information on the WCDRR, please visit [www.wcdrr.org](http://www.wcdrr.org).

To learn more about Ibasho Café, please visit <http://www.ibasho.org>



UNISDR



Panttee Nuykram/HelpAge International



# Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Older people are “invaluable assets” in DRR

Policy-makers and international agencies gathered from 14 to 18 March in Sendai, Japan for the the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR). The principal objective was to agree on a new framework for managing disaster risk in order to reduce mortality and economic losses caused by natural disasters. This is increasingly important as climate change leads to more numerous and more severe disasters each year, disproportionately harming the world’s most vulnerable.

A new global framework builds on both the successes and shortcomings of the previous Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) which helped strengthen disaster resilience over the past 10 years. After over 30 hours of negotiations, representatives from 187 UN member States adopted an agreement on disaster risk management, the first major agreement of the Post-2015 development agenda. The agreement has seven targets and four priorities for action.

The Sendai Framework outlines seven global targets to be achieved over the next 15 years:

- a substantial reduction in global disaster mortality
- a substantial reduction in numbers of affected people
- a reduction in economic losses in relation to global GDP
- a substantial reduction in disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, including health and education facilities
- an increase in the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020

- enhanced international cooperation
- increased access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments.

Delegates have agreed on four priorities for action: 1) a better understanding of risk, 2) strengthened disaster risk governance, 3) more investment and more effective disaster preparedness and 4) embedding the ‘build back better’ strategy into recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts post-disaster.

In the new framework, for the first time, older people - along with people with disabilities, women, children, migrants and indigenous people - have been included as key stakeholders. The Sendai Framework states that older people have years of knowledge, skills and wisdom, which are invaluable assets to reduce disaster risk, and that they should be included in the design of policies, plans and mechanisms, including for early warning.

The UN WCDRR was attended by over 6,500 participants including 2,800 government representatives from 187 governments. The Public Forum had 143,000 visitors over the five days of the conference making it one of the largest UN gatherings ever held in Japan.

You can download the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” from our website <http://ageingasia.org/category/resources/publications/>

(PN)

## Moving from words to action. Questions on implementation of the Framework:

### Who is responsible for implementing the Framework?

The State! The new Framework highlights the primary responsibility of the state to reduce disaster risk and acknowledges the right to development, life and security for people of all ages.

### What is our major concern following the Sendai Framework?

The key concern for HelpAge is that the operationalisation of the framework is not clear, and exactly how it will be achieved within the targets and monitoring framework is still wide open.

### How can the network support it?

We need to ensure that governments implement the Sendai Framework and that they do so in a way which fully recognises and utilises the capacity of older people and resources at local, regional, and national levels, in order to build resilient communities for all.

### How can we ensure that older people continue to be engaged in the Framework?

Follow-up with the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and national governments will be needed to ensure that the framework is operationalised in a way which ensures meaningful engagement of older people at all levels from national policy formulation, to monitoring and implementation at local government and community levels.

(iv) Older persons have years of knowledge, skills and wisdom, which are invaluable assets to reduce disaster risk, and they should be included in the design of policies, plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(v) Indigenous peoples, through their experience and traditional knowledge, provide an important contribution to the development and implementation of plans and mechanisms, including for early warning;

(vi) Migrants contribute to the resilience of communities and societies and their knowledge, skills and capacities can be useful in the design and

# When older people lead disaster risk reduction, it is inclusive



## ► Regional

In emergency response and disaster risk reduction, older people are generally considered simply as a vulnerable group. This vision is incomplete and can lead to a waste of valuable social and economic resources.

In reality, the vast majority of older people are active, knowledgeable, and often have time and willingness to make significant contributions. In my experience, I have witnessed older people being very resourceful and capable of leading and guiding community-based responses and disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) actions.

In projects of HelpAge in Southeast Asia, older people are involved in assessments, relief distribution, monitoring of activities and developing contingency plans. Organising older people towards DRR and emergency relief, particularly through community-based mechanisms such as Older People's Associations (OPAs), is the best way to maximize their involvement.

Older people in the Philippines, Myanmar and Vietnam have set up DRR committees in order to save lives through preparation for disaster. DRR committees are responsible for giving early warnings to communities, developing hazard maps and identifying evacuation centres and safe routes for people to get there. The committees also develop and promote the 'buddy system', whereby vulnerable older

people and people with disabilities are matched with younger community volunteers for safe evacuation. Committees also ensure that the evacuation centre is equipped for their community's specific needs, such as stocking medications and first aid supplies. They engage with the local government on inclusive DRR programmes and the allocation of funds for training, including simulation exercises.

In the OPA monthly meetings, the DRR committees provide an update of their activities. The DRR committees stock needed equipment for use during disasters. These include life jackets, spades, ropes, torches, walking sticks and first aid kits. These are stored in the community, close to locations that are identified as high risk, to ensure easy access in times of need.

Older people have proven themselves to be very responsible custodians of life saving equipments, and skilled and knowledgeable members of DRR committees. Their active involvement adds value in building community resilience.

*“Older people are often seen as passive recipients of aid rather than active participants in disaster risk reduction activities. They need to be included to ensure communities are resilient.”*

*Godfred Paul, Senior Regional Programme Manager for HelpAge International, East Asia/Pacific.*

# Interview

Take 5 with Quyên Tran,  
Regional Programme Manager, HelpAge East Asia/Pacific



**Please briefly introduce yourself. What is your background and expertise?**

My name is Quyên Tran, a Regional Programme Manager for HelpAge International EAPRO since 2003. I studied civil engineering and made use of that in the Peace Corps in northern Thailand developing water systems for remote communities. That work persuaded me to change careers and for the past 25 years, I have worked in development.

I use my expertise to serve HelpAge as the lead on the community driven development model of multi-functional older people's associations (OPA). Primarily working in Vietnam, this model uses OPAs to meet diverse needs of older people: water and sanitation, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, healthy ageing promotion, social interaction and the like.

**As a trained engineer, how do you use your background with your work for older people?**

As an engineer, I developed analytical, structural, systematic problem solving skills which help me to identify the limitations of the traditional older people's association (OPA). The Intergenerational Self-Help Club (ISHC) model which we designed and promoted in Vietnam alongside HelpAge Vietnam takes into account the limitations I observed and is more comprehensive, effective,

sustainable, practical, accessible and understandable for all than the traditional OPA model.

**From your experience on the ground, could you give an example of how older people play an active role in disaster risk management?**

In the project 'Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Coastal Vietnam' funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), we intend to increase the capacity of 40 ISHCs to design and manage community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) interventions inclusive of older people with a focus on community preparedness and resilient livelihoods.

We have managed to successfully mainstream CBDRR and CCA in 4 provinces in Vietnam. This shows good evidence that older people can play active and leading role in disaster risk management.

Older people, once trained, are resourceful and capable of leading the DRR activities in their communities. For

example, close to 65% of the 480 CBDRR and CCA communicators/trainers in the 40 target communities in the project are people aged 55 and above.

**What is a DRR innovation that you have introduced to the community in Vietnam?**

Typical communities in Vietnam use the community loudspeakers as the early warning system. However, the community loudspeaker system usually only reaches those people who live close and have no problem with their hearing. With this major limitation, the ISHCs have introduced two additional early warning systems; mobile loudspeakers, and house to house visits (through the homecare and emergency buddy volunteers). This new and appropriate improvement to the traditional early warning system has ensured that the warnings can reach the poorest and most vulnerable households in the target communities.

**What are other countries in Asia that you would like to work? Why?**

I would like to work more in Laos and Cambodia because they share a similar economic status, history and cultural practice to Vietnam, where I work currently.



## Stories from the field

### Rebuilding house, rebuilding hope

#### ► Vietnam

Nguyen Thi Thanh is 73 years old and suffers from Neurofibromatosis, a genetic condition which causes growth of tumours. She has lived alone in a remote area of Vietnam since her husband passed away 18 years ago. Thanh has three daughters, and like so many others living in rural areas, two of her children have had to move away to the city for work. One of her daughters lives next door, but she is raising her own daughter alone, also has health issues and doesn't have a stable income.

Before July 2007, Thanh lived in a house which was built by the contribution of her neighbourhood in 1996. The house was unstable and not able to protect her from extreme heat or monsoon rains. Also, her house is located in an area at high risk for typhoons, flood, drought and other natural disasters.

As part of their commitment to caring for those in need in their community, the Tan



Faniee Nuykram/HelpAge International

Thuong Intergenerational Self-Help Club (ISHC) assigned two volunteers to come and help her with her daily house work. Additionally, Mr Thuan, who is in charge of the Club's rights and entitlements activities, offered to provide her with support to strengthen her house.

Before typhoon season in 2014, Mr Thuan, together with the Club Management Board, advocated successfully to the Commune People's Committee to allocate 2 million VND (USD100) to fix Mrs. Thanh's house. 37

members of the Tan Thuong ISHC contributed one day of labour each to work on her house.

Their efforts were successful, but the house was still not strong enough for the coming typhoon season. Again, the ISHC advocated on her behalf. They sought assistance from the Loc Ha Women's Union to complete and submit the application form for Mrs. Thanh to the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in Loc Ha district for financial support to rebuild the house. The application was approved with 15 million VND (USD700) granted.

In addition, the ISHC mobilised its members, other community's members and local authorities. They were able to collect another 2 million VND (USD100), 30 kg of cement and labour contributions from ISHC members.

"Mr Thuan comes to my house everyday to work with people to build a new house for me. He helps me to buy materials for building and keeps track of everything. A new house is more than I ever expected to have in my life. Thanks to the Club and Mr Thuan, I feel so thankful," said Thanh.

(HTT)

### Older people's organisation in Typhoon Haiyan affected communities – Support for communal gardens

#### ► The Philippines

The older people's organisation (OPO) of Mahayag village, in the municipality of Merida, located in Western Leyte, has harvested the first fruits of their labour, literally. As a consequence of the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan, many older people lost their main source of income. Access to quality and affordable food has been identified by older people as one of their top priorities. One innovative solution being promoted by HelpAge-COSE to these two problems is communal gardens for OPOs.

The Mahayag OPO established a communal garden on leased land with the support of HelpAge International and the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (HelpAge-COSE) and funding support from Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH) – a coalition of three German-based NGOs.

The OPO members cleared 200 m<sup>2</sup> of land for vegetable and fruit growing. In just six months, they have produced Chinese cabbages, peanuts, maize, chillies,

tomatoes, cucumbers, and more. Much of their produce has been sold in the market for a profit. Their efforts have been strengthened and made more productive through the training they received on livelihood diversification strategies from HelpAge-COSE.

The Mahayag OPO is not alone. The Capirawan village OPO in Eastern Leyte has already planted on their leased land and are looking forward to the first harvest.

"The livelihood support and training HelpAge-COSE has provided, is a good example of what we're trying to achieve. People working cooperatively, to produce a reliable source of income for themselves and at the same time producing nutritious saleable products to wider community. Hopefully, with this effort, the OPO are better placed to support themselves and offer long-term support to their members," says Ian James Clarke, Emergency Programme Director of HelpAge-COSE Typhoon Haiyan Programme.



Aldrin Norio/HelpAge-COSE

*"This project has helped us learn new techniques in farming, entrepreneurship and organisational management. The gardens also bring us together doing something enjoyable."*

*Eulogia Pansoy, president of Mahayag older people organisation.*

(AG)



## HelpAge-COSE Mobile Health Care Service delivers accessible medical care for older people in four municipalities

### ► The Philippines

On December 2014, HelpAge International and the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (HelpAge-COSE) and partner local government units introduced the Mobile Health Care Service to deliver home care services to the doorsteps of older people in Cebu and Leyte.

This unique programme aims to bring healthcare closer and more accessible to older people who would otherwise struggle to have regular visits at their

nearest health care unit due to physical and financial limitations.

Bedridden older people are pre-identified through the help of older people's organisations (OPO) in their communities, and they are prioritised by mobile nurses.

The nurses offer several services, including checking blood pressure, and providing vitamins and medicines that have been prescribed by their patient's physicians. These nurses also identify and assess families with members who

have mental health issues and could benefit from psychosocial support conducted by the community health volunteers.

The program has assisted 300 older people in just the three months since it started in the municipalities of Medellin in North Cebu and Isabel in West Leyte. Another two municipalities – Tolosa and Tanauan in East Leyte, have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HelpAge-COSE and are currently in the process of recruiting staff. They have plan to start interventions this month.

(AG)

## Buddy HomeCare – social enterprise for older people

### ► Thailand

Buddy HomeCare is a social enterprise run by the Foundation for Older Person's Development (FOPDEV). It was created as an expansion of the "Volunteer-Based Home Care Programme for Thai Older People", which was conducted in 2009 to 2012. The programme ended but the need for care services has not. Buddy HomeCare's well-trained staff will provide health advice, companionship, and help with activities of daily living for senior citizens who require care and have the ability to pay.

Some of the funds raised will fund continued care services for poor older people, who would otherwise be unable to afford care support. Access to Buddy HomeCare's free healthcare can help them to continue self-caring, and improve mental well-being. Also, monitoring can help identify older people who may be at risk of depression.

Buddy HomeCare offers a range of services: from basic care in hospitals and clinics to long-term care at home. This includes cleaning and bathing, helping patients use the toilet and dress, serving

meals, conveying health concerns to nurses and taking vital signs such as heart rate, blood pressure and temperature. It will reduce the burden of chronic illness upon the elderly and the reliance that seniors have on others.

Funded by and designed with technical support from the Thai Social Enterprise Office, FOPDEV provided a scholarship to 20 students from lower-income families in Chiang Mai to become certified caregivers to work in Buddy HomeCare. A grant covers start-up cost, recurring monthly expenses, and the cost of caring for 200 disadvantaged older people.

Though Buddy HomeCare is just beginning, their goal is to be a leader in care provision for the elderly. FOPDEV wishes to expand this model beyond Chiang Mai through collaboration with social entrepreneurs who would like to replicate the model. The team is ready to provide consultation and facilitate setup of Buddy HomeCare.

(WW)

**Interested in more information?**  
Please contact: **Narathip Thepmongkol,**  
[narathip@fopdev.or.th](mailto:narathip@fopdev.or.th)





Phyu Sin Thant Lu/HelpAge International

## Myanmar's Journey to Broader Social Protection: a look at the design process undertaken by Mon State

### ► Myanmar

A Mon State social protection planning workshop was held from 18 to 20 March 2015 at Mawlamyaing Township, Mon State, following successful workshops in Kayah State and Ayeryarwady Region. The three-day workshop brought together stakeholders from regional government, UN agencies, civil society organisations, community groups and business representatives to develop a draft inclusive five year social protection programme.

Taking an evidence-based participatory approach, the Social Policy and Poverty Research Group (SPPRG) facilitated the development of Mon State social

protection plans. The workshop first introduced the concept of social protection and vulnerability, and then guided the participants through the process of studying the evidence base for different vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, older persons, vulnerable women and children. Using datasets and planning tools developed by SPPRG, representatives from each of ten townships identified key priorities for their township, and then identified existing social protection activities being undertaken by government or supplemented by NGOs and civil society organisations. Following this, township planners were then guided through the process of developing draft proposals for

social protection activities at township level, then they proposed draft budgets and identified potential partners for proposed activities. Using the software developed by SPPRG, the data from draft plans was inserted and used to calculate estimates for the likely impact of the draft plan in terms of poverty reduction and impact on key social protection indicators such as child malnutrition, disability rehabilitation and healthcare for older people.

In the very near future, there will be a series of social protection planning workshops in other states and regions in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare (MoSWRR) to spread this approach throughout the country.

(HTS)

## A workshop on “Community-based Model on Caring for and Promoting the Role of Older People” in Vietnam

### ► Vietnam

On 13 January 2015, the Vietnam National Committee on Aging (VNCA) and the Vietnam Association of the Elderly (VAE) jointly organised the workshop “Community-based Model on Caring for and Promoting the Role of Older People”. The workshop was attended by 120 participants including leaders of Provincial Department of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs (DoLISA), leaders of provincial elderly associations from 19 provinces in Southern Vietnam, NGOs, private companies and media agencies.

Mr Nguyen Trong Dam – Deputy Minister of Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs introduced the purpose of the forum: to share experiences, to clarify advantages and disadvantages of the model, and to discuss methods of replication of the Intergenerational Self-Help Clubs (ISHCs).



Mr Dam Huu Duc, Vice chairman of Vietnam Association of the Elderly stated: “Developing a national proposal on the replication of ISHCs and getting it approved by the government is a key VAE target for 2015.”

Progress is already being made on large-scale replication of the impressive ISHC model. This year, four provinces will be developing their own plan to replicate ISHCs with seed funds coming from the local government and communities.

(LMH)



## COSE joins work to ensure inclusion of vulnerable populations in national DRR manuals

### ► The Philippines

On 11-13 March, the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE) attended the first workshop for the Development of the Lahat Handa (Everyone is Prepared) DRR Manual organised by Handicap International. This workshop brought together 15 participants from national and local NGOs such as World Vision, the National Council on Disability Affairs, the AKAP Pinoy, the Center for Disaster

Preparedness, and the NORFIL Foundation.

These workshops aim to develop the content of a supplementary manual for the Basic Instructor's Guide (BIG) of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office of the Philippines. The supplementary manual, Lahat Handa (Everyone is Prepared) will focus on the inclusion of children, older people, people with disabilities and others in

community-based DRR. Each organisation will write about the global context of disaster, the unique situation of the Philippines and the sector they are representing. The next workshop will serve as a platform to present and comment on the drafted submissions and to decide on their inclusion in the Lahat Handa (Everyone is Prepared) manual.

(FA)

## Convention on older people's rights – what next?

### ► Global

HelpAge, along with a few like-minded organisations around the world, has been calling for a convention on the rights of older people since 2008. Even though UN member states are responsible for the actual drafting of a new convention, it is important that civil society take part so that the experience of older people informs the process.

To facilitate this process, the UN General Assembly created an Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OWEGA) in 2010 to strengthen the protection of older people's human rights. OWEGA reviews how existing human rights instruments address older people's rights. It will also identify any gaps in protection and explore the feasibility of new human rights instruments. In the past five OWEGA meetings, some countries in Asia and Pacific regions have shown strong support on the convention, particularly Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Other countries have been less conclusive on their position regarding the convention.

For the next meeting in July 2015, governments have been asked to submit concrete proposals, practical measures,

best practices and lessons learnt on how to better protect older people's rights by 30 May. These will then be compiled and presented to the UN General Assembly in late 2015.

### What can you do?

This is a golden opportunity to talk to your government counterparts about how they can support a new convention. You can encourage your government to submit concrete proposals on the contents of the convention. At minimum, you can ask that your government at least attend the OWEGA, or even better, prepare a statement for the meeting. Age Demands Action could also be a useful

tool to rally bottom-up support for this process.

This convention is absolutely necessary for this 21<sup>st</sup> century world, so, as we live longer lives, we can continue to live dignified lives and enjoy our human rights throughout our entire lives, including in our older age.

**More information on the convention on the rights of older people can be found on HelpAge global website.**

**To learn more about the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OWEGA) at: <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/index.shtml>**

(TL)



## SANA – New regional project launched in March

### ► Regional

Strengthening the Asian Network on Ageing (SANA) started on 1 March 2015. It is a three year project. The project is managed by EAPRO and works in seven countries: Philippines, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. The project aims to empower communities to tackle local issues and to advocate for policy change on income security.

To expand the regional network on ageing, SANA will actively build local networks of organisations that are interested in participatory approaches and working with older people. The project will support these organisations to build age sensitive methods into the way they work. We hope that some of these organisations will attend the HelpAge Conference in 2016. Network expansion

activities are happening in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and China.

The project will also advocate for income security. A planned study in the Philippines will investigate a more comprehensive pension system, including practical options and the feasibility of moving towards a coherent, universal pension system. In Thailand, a network of civil society organisations are working together to integrate the existing social (non-contributory) old age allowance as part of the overall old age pension system. As part of this process, they are also aiming to increase benefit levels and to strengthen the legal basis for a social pension in old age.

**Any questions? Please contact Clare Danby on [clare@helpageasia.org](mailto:clare@helpageasia.org)**

(CD)

## Media visit to older people's group in northern Thailand

### ► Thailand

Under the umbrella of the project "Strengthening the civil society network on ageing in Southeast Asia" funded by the European Union, Foundation for Older Person's Development (FOPDEV) and HelpAge East Asia/Pacific organised a trip for media/press agencies on 26-27 January 2015.

The aim of this visit was to build a better understanding among the media of ageing issues, especially in term of rights and income security for older people.

Representatives from the European Union and national and international media agencies travelled to an older people's group in Lamphun province where they were greeted with a demonstration of the vibrant group aerobic exercise that club members practice regularly to increase and maintain physical fitness. Delegates were afterwards invited to visit income generating activities of club members including woodwork and crafting, making traditional candles and chili paste, producing agricultural products and many more. In addition to earning an income, these activities offer opportunities for

connection, reducing social isolation often experienced by older people.

Media coverage following the visit featured stories about the situation of ageing in Thailand and the success of the projects led by FOPDEV and HelpAge. They also reported on the shift in perceptions of older people. Instead of being viewed just as reliant on others, this project and others demonstrate that older people care for themselves and others, and contribute to their communities and the economy.



## New NGO for older people in China

Congratulations to the newly established Chinese NGO, Shaanxi Yihe Development Centre for Ageing. With initial support from HelpAge, this nonprofit organisation envisions a society in which older people contribute and participate in development and have the right to live secure, active and healthy lives.

Shaanxi Yihe Development Centre for Ageing will work with local authorities, relevant CSOs, and communities on population ageing related issues to transfer knowledge, share best practices and lessons learned, mobilise resources and raise awareness on issues of population ageing and development in China.

We wish them growth and success and look forward to working together for the wellbeing of older people in China.

## Online registration now open for IAGG Asia/Oceania 2015

19-22 October 2015  
Chiang Mai, Thailand



The regional congress held by International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) will offer 540 oral presentations and 128 symposiums on clinical medicine, biological, social and behavioral science, social research and planning and four pre-congress courses. In addition to the scientific sessions, site visits to several interesting areas in Chiang Mai will be offered.

Key dates for registration:

- The 'Early Bird' registration rate will be available up until 26 May 2015
- The 'Regular' registration rate will be applied thereafter until 20 September 2015.

**For registration and further details, please visit the congress website at <http://iaggchiangmai2015.com/>**

## Resources

### Publications



**Community-based social care in East and Southeast Asia**  
*HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific*



**Disaster Risk and Age index**  
*HelpAge International*



**Situation of older people in Myanmar (Revised 2014)**  
*HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific*



**In our own words**  
*The Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People/HelpAge International*

### Videos

**WCDRR: Disaster Resilience in an Ageing World** (<https://youtu.be/Mifu4ZlG0Yc>)

**Community-based social care for older people** (Available soon)

### Blogs

**Older people in East Asia: Advocates creating meaningful change**

*Jemma Stovell*

**Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework: older people and the importance of data**

*Clare Harris*

All HelpAge publications are available to download from [www.helpage.org/resources](http://www.helpage.org/resources). You can access our films and blogs from above URL as well.

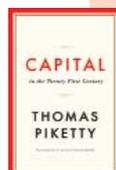
### Other sources



Experts' views on the often unexplored issues of global ageing and development

**Facing the Facts: the truth about ageing and development**

*Age International*



Thorough study on growing inequalities in unregulated economies

**Capital in the Twenty-First Century**

*Belknap Press of Harvard University press*



Groundbreaking analysis of ageing and intergenerational economies based on life-course and national transfer accounts.

**Population Aging and the Generational Economy: A Global Perspective**

*Edward Elgar Publishing*

Paper "Aging of the labor force and technical efficiency in crop production: Evidence from Liaoning province, China" available at [www.emeraldinsight.com/1756-137X.htm](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/1756-137X.htm)

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In addition, we welcome articles for consideration. Please send articles at any time to:

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AgeNews is published three times per year by HelpAge International East Asia/Pacific. Copies of AgeNews are available free of charge to people working with older people. You can also download AgeNews as a PDF from our website: [www.AgeingAsia.org](http://www.AgeingAsia.org)

**HelpAge International helps older people claim their rights, challenge discrimination and overcome poverty, so that they can lead dignified, secure, active and healthy lives.**

*AgeNews East Asia/Pacific* aims to highlight issues of ageing and the rights of older people in East Asia/Pacific as well as share experiences of working with and for older people.

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Registered charity number: 288180  
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*AgeNews is published under the regional project "Strengthening the civil society network on ageing in Southeast Asia", funded by the European Union.*